

K. BHASKARAN.

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dated 10th Aug '59

Dear Sir,

I hope you received my earlier letter in June. When I returned to the laboratory after my six-week holiday, I found that some of my P+ strains of Vibrio cholerae (maintained on nutrient agar slants) had become infertile and when tested on indicators they failed to produce the feeble lytic effect with which they were previously associated. With other P+ strains, it was possible to isolate discrete colonies, after plating on nutrient agar, which were P+ though P- colonies also occurred in significant numbers. This points to the instability of the P factor in V. cholerae unlike F in E. coli. I will be pleased to have your comments on this as I feel that this instability will be unusual if the fertility factor was associated with lysogeny or colicinogeny. I have tested a few of the P- isolates for Hfr behaviour but the results have been negative.

The general scope of the work here and the results already obtained have been communicated to you. A more extensive and detailed study will be required if this is to serve any useful purpose. I feel that this may be difficult here as I happen to be a solitary worker and do not have the facilities to consult and discuss the problem with experts and to benefit from their advice and criticism.

